



Forestry in Virginia:

- ▲ **16 million acres** of forestland
- ▲ **13.2 million acres** are privately owned
- ▲ **405,000** individual forest landowners
- ▲ Landowners receive **\$339 million** per year for harvested timber
- ▲ **108,000** Virginians are employed in forestry-related industry jobs
- ▲ **2.1 percent** of all Virginia workers are employed in forestry-related industry jobs
- ▲ Forestry generates **\$21.6 billion** annually in total industry output
- ▲ Societal and ecological benefits of forestry contribute another **\$6.7 billion** annually

For More Information

For more information about VDOF services or programs, please contact your local Virginia Department of Forestry office or visit:

www.dof.virginia.gov

Western Region Office, Salem:

Phone: (540) 387-5461

Central Region Office, Charlottesville:

Phone: (434) 977-5193

Eastern Region Office, Providence Forge:

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THE VALUE OF VIRGINIA'S FORESTS

*Virginia Forests Provide More
Than
\$28.2 Billion Annually
in Benefits to the
Commonwealth*



Virginia Department of Forestry

The Economics of Forestry

Forestry and the wood products industry is a tremendous economic engine in the Commonwealth that generates more than \$21 billion in total industrial output annually and provides employment for almost 108,000 Virginians, according to a 2017 study by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia. This makes it the third most important sector of the Virginia economy.

"For more than 400 years, forestry has been a vital component of the Commonwealth's economy," said Rob Farrell, state forester of Virginia. "Timber was the very first product shipped to England by the colonists at Jamestown, and more than four centuries later it remains a strong industry."

The Cooper Center study found that forestry production employs more than 13,700 workers and generates more than \$1.4 billion in total industrial output. Value-added industries that are timber dependent employ an additional 53,700 people and generate more than \$12 billion in total industrial output. Through purchasing decisions of forestry-related industry and their rippling effects in the economy, another 40,000 jobs and more than \$7.7 billion in total industrial output are generated. This output contribution is more than 2.6 percent of Virginia's annual economy. The 108,000 people employed by forestry and related sectors represent 2.1 percent of total employment in Virginia.



Photo courtesy of Virginia Loggers Association

Economic Impact of Forestry in Virginia

Economic Impact	Output	Employment	Value Added
Production	\$1,422.20	13,736	\$865.00
Processing Core	\$12,368.30	53,696	\$4,894.70
Processing Extended	\$5,817.00	29,719	\$2,395.50
Distribution	\$1,968.10	10,780	\$1,157.20
Total	\$21,575.60	107,931	\$9,312.40

More than 16 million acres (63 percent) of the Commonwealth's total land area is forestland, the bulk of which is owned by private citizens. In 2016, these Virginians received more than \$339 million for timber harvested on their lands. This timber was milled into almost 1.6 billion-board-feet of lumber that was used to build homes and manufacture furniture. Additionally, portions of the harvested timber were used to create consumer products, such as paper, packaging, foods, and health and beauty products.

The Commonwealth's forests are dominated by hardwood stands, which constitute 78 percent of the state's trees, and Virginia is the third largest producer of hardwood lumber in the nation. Oak-hickory is the most prevalent forest type. While hardwood removal is predominate statewide, in two areas (southeastern and coastal Virginia) softwoods are the number one source of forest products.

The Cooper Center study did not include the important societal and ecological benefits provided by our forests, such as air and water quality, carbon sequestration, soil stabilization, flood mitigation, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, scenic amenities and recreational opportunities. However, benefits to air and water quality exceed \$6.6 billion annually. Thus, Virginia forests provide more than \$28.2 billion annually in benefits to the Commonwealth.

For More Information

For more information on how the Virginia Department of Forestry can help you, call your local VDOF office or visit the agency Web site at www.dof.virginia.gov.